

Appl. No. 10/754,323
Amdt. Dated November 7, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 19, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

In the seated locked position, the second connector is horizontally aligned with the first connector within the confines of the slot, so that the locking detents on the connectors are engaged and retained at the same level to form the connector-to-connector lock. Generally, the second connector must be either elevated or depressed as it ~~passed~~ passes into the slot to achieve such horizontal alignment. Hence, the profile of the leading edge of the connector is tapered to guide the connector during its travel through the main beam slot.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

By adjusting the second connector into the slot more quickly vertically as it travels through the slot, ~~the second connector, when~~ the locking detents and connector ends that engage ~~in their~~ together by flexing, are in a position, as set forth in (3) above, to offer the least resistance to ~~flexing~~ such engagement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

In the present drawings, a connection of the invention is shown in Figures 1, 1a, with the improvement of the invention shown more clearly in Figure 2[[s]] and 2a. In the present connection, main beam 20, shown in cross section, extends longitudinally in a ceiling grid. Identical connectors 21 and 22 have been stabbed through a slot 23 in the web 25 of the main beam 20 and interconnect. The connectors 21 and 22 are connected respectively to cross beams 26 and 27 by rivets at 28.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3, with the following amended paragraph.

Locking latch 40 contacts side of slot 23 and is flexed enough to allow the latch ~~23~~40 to pass through slot 23 and reflex back to a rest position, in a one way movement. In this position, the first connector 21 through the slot is retained within the slot 23.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8, and ending on line 16, with the following amended paragraph.

In the prior art, (1) through (4) above overlapped or occurred virtually simultaneously, so that the force and work required to complete a connection 10 was not only the sum of the forces necessary to overcome the sum of the individual resistances created by (1), (2), (3) and (4) referred to immediately above, but also the force and work to overcome the friction created when forces (1), (2), (3) and (4) overlapped,

or occurred simultaneously. These frictional resistances included:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The force necessary, and the distance over which the force must be ~~applies~~ applied, is obviously ~~remarkable~~ remarkably less, in making the connection, with the present improvement in the connector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4c overlaps the charts of Figures 4a and 4b, with the locked position of the prior art connection, and the connection of the invention as an overlapped common point along the horizontal axis at 96. ~~[[?]]~~ΔX in the chart represent the distance of the delay in contact between the prior art latch 15, and the latch of the invention 40, with the side 17 of the slot 23, as the second connector into the slot is being inserted. Again, Figure 4c, in chart form, represents the substantial reduction in force, and work necessary to make the present connection, over that to make the prior art connection.